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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Frank Edward  
4 Thomas on his 2014 election to the National Baseball Hall of  
5 Fame; and

6           WHEREAS, Frank Thomas was born May 27, 1968 in Columbus,  
7 Georgia; and

8           WHEREAS, Frank Thomas was a star in both baseball and  
9 football while in high school; and

10           WHEREAS, In 1986, Frank Thomas enrolled at Auburn  
11 University, where he played tight end on the football team and  
12 stood out on the baseball team, hitting .359 in 1986, and was  
13 selected to play for the United States team in the Pan-Am  
14 Games; in 1989, he was named the Southeastern Conference Most  
15 Valuable Player in baseball; and

16           WHEREAS, In the 1989 Major League Baseball draft, Frank  
17 Thomas was selected with the seventh pick in the first round by  
18 the Chicago White Sox; and

19           WHEREAS, Frank Thomas made his Major League Baseball debut  
20 on August 2, 1990 against the Milwaukee Brewers, where he drove

1 in his first run; on August 28, 1990, he hit the first home run  
2 of his career against the Minnesota Twins; he finished his  
3 first season hitting .330, with 7 home runs and 31 runs batted  
4 in in 60 games; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1991, Frank Thomas's first full season, he  
6 established himself as a multi-talented hitter, combining  
7 power with hitting for average, drawing walks, and driving in  
8 runs; he finished third in Most Valuable Player voting with a  
9 .318 batting average, 32 home runs, 109 runs batted in, and 138  
10 walks; he won the first of 4 Silver Slugger awards and led the  
11 league in on-base percentage, something he would accomplish 4  
12 times throughout his career; and

13 WHEREAS, During the 1993 season, Frank Thomas would lead  
14 his team to the American League West title by hitting .317 with  
15 41 home runs and 128 runs batted in; he would unanimously win  
16 the 1993 Most Valuable Player Award by receiving all 28 first  
17 place votes; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 1994 strike shortened season, Frank Thomas  
19 became the sixth player in American League history to win  
20 consecutive Most Valuable Player Awards; and

21 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas continued to pile up the numbers in  
22 the 1990s, winning a batting title in 1997 with a .347 batting

1 average, and by compiling a major league record of 7  
2 consecutive seasons with at least 100 runs batted in, 100  
3 walks, 20 home runs, and a .300 batting average; and

4 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas was instrumental in the Chicago White  
5 Sox's 2005 World Series victory, the franchise's first  
6 championship in 88 years; and

7 WHEREAS, During the 2006 season, Frank Thomas helped the  
8 Oakland Athletics win the American League West title by hitting  
9 .270, with 39 home runs and 114 runs batted in; during the  
10 American League Division series, he went 5-10 with 2 home runs  
11 as the A's swept the Minnesota Twins; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 28, 2007, Frank Thomas, as a member of the  
13 Toronto Blue Jays, became the 21st person in Major League  
14 Baseball history to hit 500 home runs; and

15 WHEREAS, On February 12, 2010, Frank Thomas signed a  
16 one-day contract with the Chicago White Sox and announced his  
17 retirement; and

18 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas finished his career with 521 home  
19 runs, with 5 seasons of at least 40 home runs; 1,704 runs  
20 batted in; a .301 career batting average; a .419 on-base  
21 percentage, including 4 seasons where he led the league; 1,667

1 walks, including 4 times leading the league; 5 All-Star Game  
2 selections; 4 Silver Slugger Awards; and 9 Top 10 finishes in  
3 the American League Most Valuable Player voting, including his  
4 back-to-back wins in 1993 and 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, On January 8, 2014, Frank Thomas was elected to  
6 the National Baseball Hall of Fame the first year he was  
7 eligible by receiving 478 votes, which is 83.7% of the votes;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we congratulate Frank Edward Thomas on his election to the  
12 National Baseball Hall of Fame; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to Frank Edward Thomas and the Chicago White Sox as a  
15 symbol of our recognition of his great achievements.